UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HINSDALE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2026 - Time: 7:00 PM Central Time

Meeting Conducted Virtually via Zoom

MINUTES APPROVED AT MEETING OF JULY 16, 2026

Board covenant: We covenant to: respect time by following an agenda, review meeting materials prior to arrival, respect differing opinions, listen without interrupting, make space for all, remember the big picture, speak with one voice once a decision has been made, refrain from micromanagement, and work within the context of the UUA.

In attendance: David Mrazek (President), Eric Haas (Vice President), Marian Honel-Wilson (Secretary) and Trustees-at-Large Susan Stephens, Zia Karim and Beth Fahey, plus Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson (Minister). Absent: Dave May (Treasurer), Pam Fodor (Director of Programs)
Guest: Charlie Fischer

NOTE: In the minutes everyone is referred to by their first names. To avoid confusion, David Mrazek is referred to as "David," Dave May as "Dave," Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson as Rev. Beth and Trustee Beth Fahey as "Beth."

A. Call to Order/Welcome Visitors

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. David welcomed church member Charlie Fischer as a visitor. Charlie expressed his concern that the church grounds and buildings need a lot of work and his impression is that the Home and Garden team is only "putting out fires." He has a number of ideas of things that could be done and he is wondering how ideas get made into reality when there is a cost that is not in the budget. Rev. Beth explained that the church is organized into Circle Teams of responsibility and that each team is in one of the staff member's portfolios. Typically, a person with a concern in a particular area would mention it to the circle coordinator for that area, and if appropriate, the circle coordinator would request it be added to the budget. Gene Shaffer is the coordinator of the building and grounds area, a/k/a Home and Garden, and that is in her portfolio. Rev. Beth suggested to Charlie that she and Gene meet with Charlie to discuss his issues. She also mentioned that the board has been talking about the need to budget for a complete assessment and report on the condition of the church's buildings and grounds. The Communications Team is talking about building aesthetics, so there is some overlap with that team. Eric mentioned that the Strategic Direction Team may include planning for capital improvements as part of their strategic planning process. (Charlie left at 7:13 p.m.)

B. Feathers and Check In

Check-in/Feathers completed. The board welcomed new board members Zia Karim and Beth Fahey and welcomed Eric Haas in his new position of Vice President.

C. Minutes

The minutes from the May 21 meeting were approved by consensus, as amended.

D. Finance Discussion

The finance discussion was deferred to next month as Dave May, Treasurer, was not available.

E. Staff Reports

a. Minister's Report –

- It was requested that the Board Secretary link staff reports in the minutes so that anyone reading the minutes can also access the reports.
- In contrast to previous years, we will have a Summer RE program, and the Children's Garden, an outdoor play space for children, has been redone.
- The Church Management System hasn't been purchased yet, but Gene Shafer has agreed to implement the new system.
- The online Church Directory is an ongoing process.
- Rev. Beth will be off in July.

b. Pam's Report – No report this month as Pam has been out due to her husband's death.

F. New Business

a. Robert's Rules is off the agenda and minutes. Due to the congregation passing the bylaws change at the annual meeting on June 7, it is no longer required that we announce at the beginning of each board meeting which version of Robert's Rules we will be following.

b. Eric motioned and Marian seconded that the Board adopt the following language as our Board Covenant: "We covenant to: respect time by following an agenda, review meeting materials prior to arrival, respect differing opinions, listen without interrupting, make space for all, remember the big picture, speak with one voice once a decision has been made, refrain from micromanagement, and work within the context of the UUA." We will print the covenant at the top of the agenda and minutes.

c. Strategic Direction Team Report: David indicated that the new mission statement was approved at the annual meeting, and the team will meet with the consultant in August. The team is looking at how it can elicit comments from the congregation about how the church can live into its new mission. One idea that's been

discussed is having tables after services on a couple of Sundays where people can write down their ideas.

d. Rev. Beth indicated that Pam has asked that donations honoring her husband be made to the "Pam and Jay Carpet Fund."
e. The buildings are undergoing a deep cleaning, and Pam and Rev. Beth would like to address the stain in the living room with new carpeting in the church building this summer. Rev. Beth requested on behalf of the staff that the Board authorize a special fund-raising effort to replace the carpeted areas in the church/sanctuary building (stairs and living room). Marian moved and Susan seconded this proposal. Motion passed. The Pam and Jay Fodor fund will seed this initiative.
f. Board Learning: The MidAmerican Board Gatherings are in hiatus over the Summer.
g. The Board discussed Leo Monroy's E-Commerce idea for raising additional money for the church.

G. Write Ins

a. Audit/Outside Review of the Church Books: The Board discussed the "internal financial review" or internal audit as suggested by Rev. Matthew Johnson of the MidAmerica Region. Next steps on this project would entail a discussion with Dave, the Treasurer, and Deb, the church finance staff, and a couple of people were identified who could be approached to see if they would agree to conduct this audit. Resources for conducting such a review are at https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/money-matters/audits, including a template for an internal financial review.]
b. Eric suggested that when the board does its check-in/feathers that we indicate how our activities fit into our new church mission statement: Love boldly. Grow deeply. Act justly. Together. David will add this to the agenda.
c. The Board discussed the "Board Orientation" materials that Marian added to the Google Drive. Marian acknowledged that it needs work.

H. Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:09 and exited at 8:30.

I. Final item: the date was set for the annual Board retreat on Saturday, September 12th from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will likely include the September meeting as well. Beth offered her home for the retreat.

J. Motion to Adjourn

Beth motioned and Eric seconded; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.